



The Mid-American

Newsletter of the Mid-America Orchid Congress

February 2006

<http://www.midamericanorchids.org/>

In this issue:

Mid America Orchid Congress Spring Show	2	Orchid Names: A Pronunciation Guide	6
President's Message	2	Future Mid America Congress Dates	6
Affiliated Societies Report	2	Officers and Committee Chairpersons	7
The Challenges We Face With Orchid Names	3	MAOC Spring Registration form	8
Orchidist of the Year	6		

CIRCLE MARCH 24-26, 2006, ON YOUR CALENDAR

March will be here before we know it and it will be time for the Spring 2006 Mid-America Orchid Congress meetings in Omaha March 24-26. Members of the Greater Omaha Orchid Society are busy preparing for you to arrive at the Omaha Marriott Hotel, 10220 Regency Circle.

A full slate of speakers will share information with you: Orchid Conservation at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo by Marge From, The 2008 World Orchid Congress by Robert Fuchs, The True Encyclias by Erich Michel, Orchid Conservation and the State of the World by Harold Koopowitz and New Miniature Orchids by Lucinda Winn. You will have the opportunity to participate in a discussion of specialty groups within your orchid society led by Doris Asher at the Affiliated Societies breakfast. Diana Plahn will lead the judges' forum.

The Greater Omaha Orchid Society's 19th Annual Show and Sale will be held in conjunction with the

MAOC meetings. Vendors who have already reserved space include Bird's Botanicals, Blue Springs, MO; Hoosier Orchids, Indianapolis, IN; Iowa Orchids, Des Moines, IA; J&L Orchids, Easton, CT; Natt's Orchids, Naperville, IL; Oak Hill Gardens, West Dundee, IL; Orchid Outlet, Peoria, IL and Palmer Orchids, Pasadena, TX. Additional vendors are also expected.

If you have not received registration information, please visit our website, www.omaha-orchid-society.org, to download registration materials, exhibit information and detailed instructions. Be sure to mail your registration form by February 28 to receive the early registration prices. To receive the special hotel rate, call Marriott reservations (1-800-228-9290) no later than March 3 and ask for a reservation at the Omaha Marriott for the Mid-America Orchid Congress meeting (be sure to specify the MAOC meeting).

SEE YOU IN OMAHA!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm honored to serve as President of the Mid-America Orchid Congress. I hope that in the coming year we can improve communications between the Congress and our member societies. Many of our societies, and their members, may not realize the great work that the Congress does on their behalf. For example, our Education and Research Committee has just reproduced a CD on the pronunciation of orchid names (read more about this in a separate article). The Affiliated Societies Committee offers many ideas to help our orchid societies better meet the needs of their

members. Our Conservation Committee supports several orchid collections at botanical gardens in Mid-America, as well as a conservation project organized by one of our member societies. Our Show Schedule Committee produced and maintains the plant entry schedule and registration materials used at orchid shows throughout Mid-America. This year we plan to resume regular publication of *The Mid-American* to help keep our societies up to date on Congress activities. As many of you know, printing and postage costs have increased dramatically in recent years. *The*

Mid-American is now the MAOC's greatest expense, and we would like to reduce the number of paper copies printed and mailed by our volunteers. We need every society's help to distribute *The Mid-American* to its members in the most efficient way possible, whether through electronic copies, paper copies, or a combination of both. I ask each member society to please contact our Publications Committee Chair, Jeanne Sanders, 6222 LeRoy Place, Cincinnati, OH 45230 jsanders1@fuse.net to let her know how we

should send *The Mid-American* to your society. I also encourage all of you to attend our semi-annual Congress meetings whenever you can. These weekend meetings offer opportunities to see (and purchase) many fantastic orchids, hear outstanding speakers, get involved in Congress activities, and socialize with knowledgeable, friendly people who share your passion for orchids. I'm looking forward to our next meeting in Omaha, and hope to see many of you there!
Beth Martin, MAOC President

**REPORT TO MID-AMERICA AFFILIATED SOCIETIES
MIDAMERICA ORCHID CONGRESS
OCTOBER 21-23, 2005 MASON, OHIO**

The Fall 2005 Mid-America Orchid Congress was held October 21-23, 2005 at King's Island Resort & Conference Center in Mason, Ohio. The 112 registrants were hosted to a well-planned weekend of exceptional speakers, interesting exhibits and gracious hospitality. The 20 vendors brought a wide selection of plants.

The speakers included Lynn O'Shaughnessy- "Hybridizing with Pleurothallids"; Bob Burkey- "Odontoglossums"; Chris Purver- "History & Future of Phrags"; Francisco Miranda- "Brazilian Orchid Habitats." Eric Michel delivered Dr. George Carr's presentation "Cycnoches." Dr. Carr was unable to attend due to the threat to his Florida home of the approaching Hurricane Wilma.

The show-stopper was a spectacular exhibit of 11 *Phragmipedium* Jason Fischer exhibited by Chris Purver,

Curator of the Eric Young Foundation – two of these flaming red beauties received FCC's during judging. Attending an MAOC is an opportunity to see genera not grown by members in your local society. The winners of special awards were the following:

AOS Show Trophy: Hoosier Orchid Company, Indianapolis

Mid-America Perpetual Trophy: Central Kentucky Orchid Society exhibit, set up by Jordan Hawley of Lexington

Raymond McCullough Award (for best *Epidendrum* or *Encyclia*): *Encyclia cerastites* (Hoosier Orchid Company)

Clifford and Vivian Walters Trophy (for best *Oncidium* alliance): *Ornithophora radicans* (Malcolm Siegel from Central Kentucky Orchid Society)

12 AOS Awards:

Phragmipedium Jason Fischer 'La Hougue Bie' (*Phrag. besseae* X *Phrag.* Mem. Dick Clements) FCC 97 Owner: Eric Young Foundation

Phragmipedium Jason Fischer 'Corbierel' (*Phrag. besseae* X *Phrag.* Mem. Dick Clements) FCC 93 Owner: Eric Young Foundation

Vascostylis Five Friendships 'Summerfield Elegance' (*Vasco.* Seng X *Vasco.* Prapin) CCM 83 / HCC 79 Owner: Summerfield Orchids

Masdevallia erinacea 'Hannah Bologna' Species AM 81 Owner: Jordan Hawley

Oncidium lanceanum 'Peruvian Princess' Species CCM 80 / AM 82 Owner: Summerfield Orchids

Cirrhopetalum Marilyn LeDoux 'Harrison' (*Cirr.* Doris Dukes X *Cirr.* Elizabeth Ann) HCC 78 Owner: Malcolm Siegel

Paphiopedium Sierra Bell 'Red Pepper' (*Paph.* Sierra Lace X *Paph. bellatulum*) HCC 76 Owner: Orchid Inn

Encyclia cerastites 'Luke' Species CCM 84 Owner: Erich Michel

Isochilus linearis 'Joyce Bevin Dowd' Species AM 81/CCM 81 Owner: Sandy Denman

A special feature of any MAOC is the auction which precedes the banquet. Wit & laughter bounced off the walls as the Ways & Means Committee raised \$4,139. Fantastic floral centerpieces set the atmosphere for a wonderful banquet. Barry Rhinehart at the piano & Jeanne Harman, flutist, provided entertainment. "Communication Within Your Society" was the topic for the Affiliated Societies Breakfast. Representatives of many societies exchanged ideas on communication using newsletters, technology & social functions. On-line registration of plants for orchid shows is encouraged. Societies should consider distribution of local newsletters & The Mid-American by email

ACTION TAKEN BY MAOC COMMITTEES

- Officers for 2006-07: President: Beth Martin; Vice-President: Russ Vernon; Vice-President: Mark Van der Woerd; Secretary: Doris Asher; Treasurer: Jan Yates.
- The Education Committee has released the updated CD "A Pronunciation Guide to Orchid Names" by Gerda Ferrington. It is available for \$10.
- The Conservation Committee has approved funding for the Cleveland Botanical Garden \$400; Ball State University \$500; Como Park \$400 and Native Orchid Garden, Green Bay Wisconsin \$400.
- Doris Asher was named Orchidist of the Year.
- Affiliated societies should send historical records & memorabilia to the AOS archives.
- The Mid-American will be published 4 times per year; the new editor is Barry Rhinehart (rlyrrrab@earthlink.net)
- All societies should consider hosting an MAOC as an individual society or as a partner as the Greater Cincinnati Orchid Society & the Miami Valley Orchid Society did so well in Mason.

THE NEXT MAOC WILL BE HELD MARCH 24-26, 2006 IN OMAHA, NEBRASKA. Information can be obtained by email: ginavan@verizon.net or www.omaha-orchid-society.org. Plan to attend.

THE CHALLENGES WE FACE WITH ORCHID NAMES

A summary and guide to dealing with the botanical and horticultural changes in orchid names.

By Stephen Benjamin,
presented at Cincinnati Judging Center Jan 8, 2006

The Mid-American Spring 2006

3

Remember to sign up for the breakfast hosted by the Affiliated Societies Committee on Sunday morning. Our discussion topic will be "Specialty Groups Within Your Local Society". If the Affiliated Societies Committee specifically or the Mid-America Orchid Congress in general can help your society in any way, I hope you'll contact us.

Remember, too, to access the Congress's web site often to stay abreast of Congress activities (www.midamericanorchids.org). If we can't solve your problem directly, we'll refer it to someone who can!

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Ps: Please share this communication with your Society – give a copy to your newsletter editor – send copies to your board – make an oral report at a Society meeting – please help us help you.

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It's been a little over a year since most of us read Dr. Alex Pridgeon's article in the December 2004 issue of

Orchids magazine (Pridgeon 2004). This excellent article summarized and explained many changes which were being discussed within the RHS and around the orchid world. These changes were reflected in its title, "The Coming Revolution in Orchid Hybrid Names". He outlined the age-old problems faced by Botanists and Horticulturalists, and the new and sometimes problematic issues that various branches of science have recently added, which fuel this debate. There was also an enlightening follow up article by Dr. Ron McHatton in the Judges Forum section of the March 2005 issue of *Awards Quarterly* (McHatton 2005). In it he elaborated on some of the effects that problems discussed by Dr. Pridgeon might have, and opened the book on a few more.

I won't go through all of the reasons and possible implications in this discussion, as the two articles mentioned above do a very good job of objectively laying these out. But I will include the following real examples to put things in perspective.

Retroactively changing hybrid genus names:

The hybrid of *Odtna*. Debutante by *Onc. maculatum* was in 1979 registered as *Colmanara* Jungle Monarch. *Colmanara* is a tri-generic genus made up of *Odontoglossum*, *Miltonia* and *Oncidium*. *Odtna*. Debutante was a hybrid of *Miltonia warscewiczii* by *Odontoglossum cariniferum*. *Milt. warscewiczii* described in 1855; with the new rules it was retroactively changed to the more correct botanical name of *Onc. fuscatum*. *Odm. cariniferum* described in 1852, was for similar reasons changed to *Onc. cariniferum*. So the current name for *Colm.* Jungle Monarch is now *Onc.* Jungle Monarch, since the genus names for the parentage were all now *Oncidiums*. To make matters worse there is already an *Onc.* Jungle Monarch listed in the RHS system, which is *Onc. sanderae* by *Onc. kramerianum* (both species are now botanically *Psychopsis*). Both of the hybrids now called *Onc.* Jungle Monarch also have AOS quality awards. If you research the awards via "Wildcatt" via quick information, you will find only the awards given to the *Onc.* Jungle Monarch which has the *Psychopsis* species in it. The historical set of rules would have kept the original botanical names intact as horticultural names, and cross-referenced the new botanical names.

The revolution actually began for most of us when

around this time the RHS began implementing some/many of the changes that Dr. Pridgeon had brought to light and began granting hybrids with various new and sometimes controversial sets of rules. Some of these rules have since been retracted, some put on hold, and some remain in use. These rules are under review and will likely be fluid until at least the next *Orchid Nomenclature and Registration Handbook* is published. The work project on this is just now starting, so it will be a while until it is out.

The following guide is not intended to solve the debate discussed above. This guide is meant to move forward and begin the process of dealing with current albeit fluid situation. It should prompt discussion and this will hopefully point to an understanding of where we are going.

Judges and Judging-

The names we hold sacred are going to change. We must be willing to evolve with the use of the new names as they come into use. In order to move forward we must still maintain a thread to the past. Judges can do much of this by maintaining knowledge of the species and their hybrids in the long and short-term perspective. Judges need to emphasize this historical perspective even more with the training of our new students. Because of the magnitude of the world of orchids, we will not likely be able to keep up, and must be even more open to the use of new technology. This will better enable us to cross-reference the past for awards and/or literature on any plant or its associated parentage. Specifically- judges need to have (or have access to) and learn how to use the new e-AOS program, "OrchidWiz", or other software that will enable and help in our research ("Wildcatt" currently has not kept up to date with the two referenced above, but should be considered if/when it updates to their level). Reference books unfortunately will not be updatable, so we need to be able to cross-reference via our knowledge and the judicious use of various lists of synonyms. Judges will need to have available the latest update of the Kew Monocot list, as it is now the base line reference list for all of the orchid species. Unfortunately this will have to be via the Internet or software because it is over 2700 pages long. Judges need to adapt their judging processes to incorporate these new required tools. (OrchidWiz has the Kew Monocot list, the e-

AOS currently only cross-references the species that have been awarded, but they are wanting/exploring the entire Kew list.)

Judges must develop and practice even more patience and understanding. They will, because of these changes, encounter at shows and the judging table many misentered plants, along with many roadblocks in our AOS research efforts. We must learn how to deal with these situations appropriately by not letting it hinder our judging, and by minimizing any animosity or frustration with or by the orchid growing public.

Do the taxonomic changes and botanical nomenclatural changes help judges?

No, but we can learn to adapt and move forward.

Breeders-

Historical trends are very important to many breeders, and when nomenclatural changes are made it makes their job much more difficult. They must use many of the same reference tools judges do in order to research the lineages.

Do the taxonomic changes and botanical nomenclatural changes help breeders?

No, but they can learn to adapt and move forward.

Commercial-

Commercial entities can be potentially more negatively affected. They typically don't care too much about the history of a plant, only enough to predict the near term future. They may not have the time or inclination to maintain the latest information when it comes to the past or even recent changes when they apply to hundreds of orchids. But with every change that is made, they have hundreds/thousands of nametags that should be changed. Worse yet, they may have sold hundreds/thousands of plants that now have the wrong name on the tag. They will be the ones who have to directly deal with inquiries from the consumer.

Do the taxonomic changes and botanical nomenclatural changes help them?

No, and the consequences can/are potentially very large.

Consumers-

The consumers come in a variety of categories from

the casual grower who does not even know the plant has a name, to the more experienced one who buys a seedling based on the name and his/her perceived value in the potential. The more the consumer moves towards the latter, the more the effect these name changes has on them. If the name means something to them, they may have to invest time and money to keep up to date. Most do not have the luxury of the routine support and informational system that the judges have, so it might mean they are on their own. This means potentially buying books or software without good guidance, or relying on the Internet, which can be good or bad. The experienced growers need to be informed and know that the monthly judging in Cincinnati (or around the country) offers them a wealth of knowledge and access to the most up to date information. If they choose not to invest they run into the risks associated with shows or judgings. If the name is no longer up to date, will they have their plant disqualified?

Do the taxonomic changes and botanical nomenclatural changes help consumers?

No, the effect will run the gamut of negligible to some, to significant with others. Some other rules that you should know of:

Historically once a grex is named whether it contains species, hybrids, or a combination of both, each subsequent cross of these parents must take the same grex name. The RHS experimented with allowing same parents but distinct clones to be registered as a new grex. *Vanda coerulea* var pink vs the standard blue was used to make *Vanda* Sancoerpink, when it should have remained *Vanda* Rothschildiana by normal convention. The AOS petitioned and got approval from the APOR (Advisory Panel on Orchid Registration) to rescind this new hybrid. The head registrar however maintains that this idea in some form will likely become common practice in the future.

Both the RHS and the AOS have adopted the Kew Monocot checklist for their reference for all species. This is good.... however not all botanists agree with it and some botanical authorities whom we may use for species identification may return names that are not on the list. The RHS said it will try and cross-reference for the registrant to the Kew Monocot name, but that it is limited in time and resources. So if submitting a Hybrid registration, the registrant should take the

botanical authorities ID and cross-reference the list, make sure the hybrid has not been made, and then submit the registration with the Kew Monocot's name. There is currently debate on the "nothogeneric" names of hybrids. This involves the combination of two natural genera to form a new genera name. Case in point: The combination of *Vanda* and *Rhynchostylis* is currently called *Rhynchovanda*. The ICBN rules states the name shall be a combination of the two natural genera based on the first use. So evidently the

RHS wants to change it to *Vandachostylis*. This change is still pending, and not in practice to my knowledge.

References:

Pridgeon, Alec 2004. "The Coming Revolution in Orchid Hybrid Names." *Orchids* 73 (12):914-921
 McHatton, Ron 2005. "Awash in a Sea of Names." *Awards Quarterly* 36(1):86

DORIS ASHER, ORCHIDIST OF THE YEAR

Doris Asher was named the 2005 Orchidist of the Year, the highest honor awarded by the Mid-America Orchid Congress. Lowell Jacks announced the award, citing Doris' long-time service as a member and chairperson of the Affiliated Societies Committee, "If you want to get something done, this is a person that you give it to. It gets done correctly and efficiently." She is also the new Secretary of the MAOC. Lowell noted that Doris is very active in the Greater Lansing Orchid Society, where she currently serves as

secretary and has held all the other offices, too. She also supports the American Orchid Society as a member of the Library/Archives Committee, an accredited judge and former chair of the Great Lakes Judging Center. One of her most recent accomplishments is that her orchid, C. Circle of Life "Accolade" AM/AOS, received the Masatoshi Miyamoto Cattleya Alliance Award for 2004. Congratulations, Doris!

FUTURE MID-AMERICAN ORCHID CONGRESS DATES

The following dates have been set:

Meeting	Location	Dates	Host(s)
Spring 2006	Omaha, NE	March 24-26	Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Fall 2006	OPEN		
Spring 2007	Glencoe, IL	April, 2007	Illinois Orchid Society
Fall 2007 & beyond	OPEN		

ORCHID NAMES: A PRONUNCIATION GUIDE CD

If you have been a society member within the MAOC for any length of time you may remember when the audio tapes of Gerda Ferrington's invaluable orchid pronunciation guide sold out. Gerda narrated the pronunciation guide as one of a series of audio tapes for the MAOC and it was the one which went 'platinum' so to speak. Now thanks to Dr. James Harper, chair of the Education and Research Committee, and Alvin May, former chair of the Cincinnati Judging Center, Gerda's words are once again heard, this time on a CD. The CD is a remastered version of Gerda's tape so those quaint

pops and crackles are gone and instead, you'll hear, with striking clarity, the proper way to pronounce all those multi-syllabic orchids names that many of us stumble over. Copies of the CD will be on sale at the Spring 2006 Mid-America Orchid Congress in Omaha for \$ 10.00. If you don't want to wait, copies of the CD, "Orchid Names: A Pronunciation Guide" are available directly from the MAOC. The price is \$10 plus \$3 s/h, by check payable to the MAOC. Orders should be mailed to: Jan Yates, Treasurer, 4110 Rose Hill Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45229

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Newsletter Circulation Policy: The newsletter is sent to all member orchid societies whose membership is current for distribution to their membership. It is also available on our website <http://www.midamericanorchids.org/>. Questions about the newsletter may be directed to Barry Rhinehart 10921 Thornview Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241 rllyrrab@earthlink.net

**The Greater Omaha Orchid Society
Hosts the Mid-America Orchid Congress Meeting
Omaha Marriott
10220 Regency Circle, Omaha, NE
March 24-26, 2006**

Registration Form (please type or print legibly)

First Registrant Name	Name to Appear on Badge
Address - Street	City State Zip
Telephone Cell phone	E-mail
Home Orchid Society	MAOC Office or Committee Position
Will you participate in Ribbon Judging Yes__ No__ Judge____ Clerk____ Will you participate in AOS Judging Yes__ No__ Will you attend Judges Luncheon (Judges only) Yes__ No__	AOS Judge Yes__ No__ Circle Status: Emeritus Senior Accredited Probationary Student
Second Registrant Name	Name to Appear on Badge
Address - Street	City State Zip
Telephone Cell phone	
Home Orchid Society	MAOC Office or Committee Position
Will you participate in Ribbon Judging Yes__ No__ Judge____ Clerk____ Will you participate in AOS Judging Yes__ No__ Will you attend Judges Luncheon (Judges only) Yes__ No__	AOS Judge Yes__ No__ Circle Status: Emeritus Senior Accredited Probationary Student

Full Registration includes unlimited entry to the show and sales area during show hours, all speakers, program booklet and welcome bag.

One Day Registration includes entry to show, sales area, speakers for that day and a program booklet.

Description	Day	Before 3/1/06	On/After 3/1/06	First Person	Second Person	Total
Full Registration	Sat & Sun	\$55	\$75			
One Day Registration	Saturday	\$40	\$50			
One Day Registration	Sunday	\$25	\$30			
*Banquet - Charred Salmon	Saturday	\$40	\$40			
*Banquet - Pecan Encrusted Chicken	Saturday	\$40	\$40			
*Banquet - New York Strip	Saturday	\$40	\$40			
Affiliated Societies Breakfast	Sunday	\$18	\$18			
Total Due						

*Special meals available on request.

Your registration form and payment (US Funds) must be **postmarked on or before February 28, 2006** to qualify for the Early Registration Rate. Make checks payable to **Greater Omaha Orchid Society** and mail with this completed form to:

Vi Thraen, 6312 Girard St., Omaha, NE 68152 Questions? 402-571-7434 or vthraen@att.net

- No refunds after March 1, 2006.
- Internet or fax registration cannot be accepted. Payment via charge cards cannot be accepted.
- Confirmation will be sent to all registrants, preferably via e-mail, so please include your e-mail address.
- For additional Registration Forms, go to our web site: www.omaha-orchid-society.org